

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07333 081357Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /080 W  
-----032446 081925Z /53

R 081254Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1943  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION NATO  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
CINCUSAREUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

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CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/RA  
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, GR, TU  
SUBJECT: AVEROFF STRESSES GREEK DETERMINATION TO DEFEND  
AEGEAN ISLANDS

REF: ATHENS 7134

1. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF CONCLUDED HIS INSPECTION TOUR  
OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS (REFTEL) ON AUGUST 6. THE THEME OF HIS  
REMARKS DURING THE SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF HIS TOUR WAS  
GREECE'S DETERMINATION, AND ABILITY, TO DEFEND ITS ISLAND  
TERRITORY WHILE SEEKING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO ITS DISPUTES  
WITH TURKEY.

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2. ADDRESSING NATIONAL GUARD AND GENDARMERIE PERSONNEL ON  
LIMNOS AUGUST 6, AVEROFF WAS REPORTED AS SAYING: "WE HAVE  
NEVER CONSIDERED THE AEGEAN TO BE A GREEK LAKE. BUT NO ONE  
CAN IGNORE THE FACT THAT NATURE HAS PLANTED IT WITH OVER  
2,000 ISLANDS WHICH, SINCE HISTORY BEGAN, HAVE BEEN INHABITED  
BY GREEKS."

3. LATER THAT DAY, ON HIS RETURN TO ATHENS, AVEROFF TOLD NEWSMEN THAT IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY THEIR LOCATION AND NUMBER HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE ISLANDS HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED SUFFICIENTLY SO THAT THEY CAN ALL BE EFFECTIVELY DEFENDED. WHY AND HOW IS GREECE'S BUSINESS, HE POINTED OUT, AND THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRARY VIEWS DO NOT KNOW THE FACTS. CITING FLOURISHING ECONOMIES ON THE LARGER ISLANDS, HE COMMENTED THAT THEIR INHABITANTS ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SECURITY.

4. AVEROFF CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY LAUDING THE EFFORTS OF LOCAL DEFENSE FORCES ON THE ISLANDS. WHILE EXPRESSING THE STRONG HOPE THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE AEGEAN WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, HE WARNED "SHOULD ANYONE ATTEMPT TO SET FOOT ON ANY CORNER OF GREEK TERRITORY HE WILL BITTERLY REGRET IT."

5. AVEROFF'S STATEMENTS AND HIS TOUR OF THE ISLANDS WERE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE BY NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION AND IN THE AUGUST 7 PRESS, WHICH WAS OTHERWISE DOMINATED BY PREPARATIONS FOR PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' FUNERAL.  
MILLS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOBACCO, TRADE COMPLAINTS, BUSINESS FIRMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ATHENS07333  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770284-1227  
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**Line Count:** 85  
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**Litigation History:** Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:06 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:03 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)  
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**Message ID:** 65dc5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ATHENS 7134  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1679871  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AVEROFF STRESSES GREEK DETERMINATION TO DEFEND AEGEAN ISLANDS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, GR, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbcr//SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/65dc5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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